

*Pray for Columbus*



# 40 Days of Citywide Prayer

**2016 Prayer Devotional**

Week 6: November 7-12, 2016

[PrayForColumbus.org](http://PrayForColumbus.org)  
*a Catalyst Initiative*

# Pray for Columbus

40 DAYS OF CITYWIDE PRAYER

a Catalyst Initiative

*“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, ESV

As we look around our city, our neighborhoods, our streets, the need for the redeeming and restoring work of Christ is so evident. The result of sin is clearly seen in the darkness and brokenness around us. Sin has wreaked havoc in so many lives and communities. So many people are far from God, lost in sin, consumed with the pursuit and worship of anything and everything except God and His glory.

As a church, as the people of God, we know we have a mission to declare and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus to those far from God. This is a glorious mission! It’s a mission of reconciliation that climaxes with the final return of Christ, when all tribes, tongues and nations will gather around the throne of Christ in unified worship of the Lamb of God.

But so often, we approach this mission with great fear and reservation. When opportunity comes to speak the truth of the saving power of Christ, we feel this pressure to say just the right thing, to be convincing in our call to truth and to be persuasive in our arguments. This often causes us to hold back from speaking truth or to speak about it so generally that the message is lost.

Here in 1 Corinthians 2, the Apostle Paul is reminding us of this liberating truth that the power to save the lost doesn’t rest on our ability to articulate it with “persuasive speech.” The power of the gospel doesn’t rest in our ability or wisdom, it’s God’s power alone that saves and restores! In and through our fear and trembling, the power of God will declare the message of hope through Christ alone. What freedom and joy this should give us to declare Jesus in the midst of our trembling and simple speech.

May God cause His church here in Columbus to have great confidence in the power of the Gospel of Jesus, to know and proclaim nothing but Christ and his work! May the power of God cause the message of the Gospel of Jesus to be made known through our brokenness and fear.



***Father God, may Your Spirit reveal the saving power of your gospel and give us the confidence and boldness to proclaim and demonstrate it in the midst of our weakness. Demonstrate Your power among us and in this city; that many may see Christ, believe, and be saved!***

**DAY 36: November 7, 2016**

Prayer Focus:  
**salvation**



Prayer Region:

**greater campus**

- Pray for a church partner for **Columbus Africentric Early College High School**
- Pray for the faith partnership with **Colerain Elementary School**
- Pray for the international students at **OSU** to hear the gospel and receive Jesus as Savior.

**Featured Contributor:**

**Joe Byler** is the Lead Pastor of Veritas Community Church’s Short North Congregation. He helped plant the church in 2008 and served as worship pastor until Spring of 2016 when he transitioned to the lead pastor role at the Short North congregation. Joe is married to Renee and they have four energetic daughters.

# Pray for Columbus

40 DAYS OF CITYWIDE PRAYER

a Catalyst Initiative

*"Yet, LORD my God, give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence. May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive." 2 Chronicles 6:19-21, NIV*

As a servant of God, King Solomon prayed wholeheartedly according to God's will. The top priority on his mind was the Father's name, and the place where His name could be exalted and manifested: His temple. Solomon did not start with his own needs and his own kingdom, which were also basic and necessary, but not as significant as the Father's house in his heart. Just like David once swore and vowed to the Lord: "I will not enter my house or go to my bed, I will allow no sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Psalm 132:2-5, NIV) A place and dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob! This is what David desired, and this is also what the Mighty One of Jacob desired! No wonder David is called the man after God's own heart. (1 Samuel 13:14)

King Solomon continued to pray for His people Israel, who gather together as one body in His house and ask for forgiveness for the people. Every believer of Jesus Christ, our only Savior, is in this one body, in the House of God.

Such a prayer is highly valued in God's heart. "The glory of the Lord filled the temple" when Solomon finished praying. (2 Chronicles 7:1b, NIV) We might start by admiring Solomon's wisdom, his wide knowledge or his literary talent, but it is his true heart toward God's house and God's people that we should respect and learn from. We may be occupied with much work for God daily – preaching the gospel, preparing meals for others, organizing many events and so on. But sometimes, the top priority in our hearts is still our own interests, rather than those of Jesus Christ. God sees us different than we think. It's not how many things we do on the outside, but how much we truly care about God's people He has put around us, as one body. "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7b, NIV) It is not that outer things are meaningless, but those things do not necessarily mean we are really looking out for the interests of Jesus Christ.

This is a prayer that satisfies God's heart, just as the prayer Jesus once taught his disciples: "hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9b-10, NIV) He looked out for God's name, Kingdom and will first, and then to our own needs and forgiveness. This is the principle of God revealed to us.

If we wish to do things for God's House, we may want to start by putting God's interests and His people's interests truly the top priority in our hearts, even above our own interests.



***My dear Lord, may You win my heart like You did to many of Your servants. Help me to grow so that Your will and Your people truly occupies my heart. May Your house be grown on this earth that You will be truly magnified and Your glory can fill your House. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

**DAY 37: November 8, 2016**

## Prayer Focus: **community**



## Prayer Region: **greater campus**

- Pray for a church partner for **Columbus Global Academy at Brookhaven.**
- Pray for the faith partnership with **Devonshire Alternative Elementary School.**
- Pray for godly leaders in our nation.

### Featured Contributor:

**Jenny Wang** is an international student from China. She came to the United States in 2011 to study Economics. During her studies, she came to know American Christians and a group of Chinese Christians on the OSU campus. She became a believer in Jesus as she encountered the love of Christ and began to realize Jesus' supreme worth more and more.

# Pray for Columbus

40 DAYS OF CITYWIDE PRAYER

a Catalyst Initiative

*"He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'"*

John 4:16-18, NIV

In John 4, Jesus has a very famous encounter with a woman at a well. During their conversation, we find out this woman has had five different husbands, and that the man she is currently with is not her husband. Now we're not given the details of these marriages, but it's safe to assume that this woman has an addiction to bad relationships. Her desire to be in a relationship has propelled her into a string of bad marriages, causing her to commit the same sin over and over and over again.

Each of us have certain sins to which we're particularly susceptible. Do you know that about yourself? Do you know what sins you're likely to follow into when you're tired, or angry, or lonely? Can you look at the path of your life and find the well-worn grooves that have been created by chasing after the same sin over, and over, and over again? You might not have been married 5 times, but what's your sin of choice?

Listen, there is a lie that says, "Eventually I'll get over this habitual sin. Eventually I'll move on. When I get married, or when my schedule becomes less crazy, I'll settle down. I'll get rid of my lying, or my pornography addiction, my excessive spending, or my bursts of anger." But the reality is, this just isn't true. We don't just get over well grooved patterns of sin in our life.

We might have enough willpower to resist for a season. We might have enough willpower to resist our sin of choice for a time, but in order to root out habitual sin from our life, we must pursue our repentance and healing with far greater intentionality than wishful thinking.

So what's your plan? How are you going to attack the well grooved patterns of sin in your life? Have you prayed and asked for help? Have you confessed your sins to a friend? Are you willing to meet up with a pastor, a mentor, or a counselor to talk through your situation?

May God give us the grace to become people who learn from our past errors, repent of our sins, and avoid the trap of repeating the same mistakes over and over again.



*Father, we recognize before You how frail we are, and we recognize our own inability to turn away from the well grooved patterns of sin in our lives. Please give us the strength to break free from this sin. Please give us the strength to say no to temptation. And please bring Your healing power and mercy in this city that many might be healed from the oppressive chains of habitual sin. Amen.*

**DAY 38: November 9, 2016**

## Prayer Focus: discipleship



Prayer Region:

## greater campus

- Pray for a church partner for **Indian Springs Elementary School**
- Pray for the faith partnership with **Hubbard Mastery School**
- Ask God to give us grace to repent and turn away from habitual sins and grow in our likeness to Christ

### Featured Contributor:

**Christian Root** pastors the Twenty-Somethings Campus of Vineyard Columbus, which meets right on the edge of OSU's campus. He has been married to his wonderful wife Celeste for four years, and their little boy Samuel was born in 2015.

# Pray for Columbus

40 DAYS OF CITYWIDE PRAYER

a Catalyst Initiative

*“When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”* Psalm 126:1-3, NIV

In 2002, my life began a journey of focused prayer. I found myself at Ohio State University with a passion for students and a desire to see the campus transformed. I came with a sense of great humility and a heart willing to take a step to see where the Lord would lead.

LoveOSU student ministry, began with students in a similar desire, for their friends, for intimacy with Jesus and the heart of a God who was changing them every moment they reached deep for answers in prayer. Who hasn't sought answers, particularly in their late teens and early 20's? We think of our college years or just beyond High School as a transformative time. For these students, it's spiritual awakening, a deep sense of wanting more than entertainment to believe. Seeking personal relationship in a community where Jesus was real, intimate and living. Being a difference.

A 24/7 prayer house to serve the church on campus began with lots of dreaming about what God would do if the church would pray, unite together in prayer, worship together. Would the campus be transformed? But first, we had to be changed. Personally, we needed to understand our own needs. How could we dream for something this big and not tend the things in our own hearts and minds. We needed to go on the journey of knowing who we were in our own identities. We needed to seek, to understand, to grow in relationships with one another, in the small, and the larger aggregate of the campus.

In recent history who had heard, or understood what a prayer movement looked like? Doesn't everybody pray? We were challenged. We tried in our own power, then let it go. We gave up ourselves deeper, to reach higher. Persistence, perseverance and patience was first hard, and then the Lord, brought miraculous moments to show His presence. What joy then became greater in our hearts.

So what did this do for a campus that's fluid? Like seasons, always changing in form, the nature of those on campus is a process physically, academically and spiritually. It stretched our imaginations, increased our awareness, helped us embrace more of His ways and not our own.



*Lord Jesus, show us how to be salt and light in dark places. Deepen our understanding of your ways. How do we love You more and those who are our neighbors? Lord, continue to create in us a transformed heart and the renewing of our minds today. Create more joy in us so the world would see how You love. Amen.*

**DAY 39: November 10, 2016**

## Prayer Focus: transformation



## Prayer Region: greater campus

- Pray for church partners for **Indianola Informal K-8 and Ridgeway Elementary School**.
- Pray for spiritual awakening in the city of Columbus in every sector of society.

### Featured Contributor:

**Julie DeLavergne** is a former director of LoveOSU. A 24/7 student prayer ministry at The Ohio State University established in 2002. A part of the Campus America movement in 2010, she has a passion for revival and awakening particularly among students. Julie continues to be active in the movement of prayer in Central Ohio, the City, and the mission of transformation.

# Pray for Columbus

40 DAYS OF CITYWIDE PRAYER

a Catalyst Initiative

*"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship...And the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and join this chariot.'" Acts 8: 26-27, 29, ESV*

As a Young Life staff member here in Columbus, I get to be a part of a team who oversees volunteer missionaries to many different communities across Columbus. During my time in Columbus, we have seen a substantial increase in opportunities for multi-cultural and multi-ethnic ministry. Suburban communities have had an increase in minority families. Our work in the city has seen growth and impact on families with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Since opportunities for multi-cultural and multi-ethnic ministry abound, we want to make the most of every opportunity (Col. 4: 5, NIV). In order to do so, we have to take a look both at who we are and who God is in regards.

If I am honest with myself, due to my sinful nature, there are some things within me that push back against the Holy Spirit's direction to pursue those who are unlike me. The shortlist of reasons includes: the fear of the unknown, the fear of being rejected, and the fear of offending those I am attempting to pursue. You may have felt similar fears as me. If you have, take heart. The God who will be worshiped by a multitude from every tribe, nation, peoples, and languages, is the same God who cast out our fears through His perfect love (1 John 4:18). The Spirit that prompts us to "approach the chariot" of a stranger who may be unlike us, is the same Spirit that will give us the words to say (Matt. 10:19). The Son who showed compassion to the Gentile, much to the chagrin of the religious leaders of his day, is indeed our hope of glory (Col. 1:27) and the one who has shown great compassion towards us.

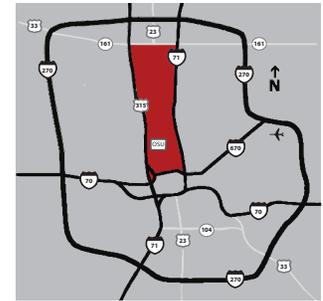
Individually, we may not be able to make our way to every nation in order to make disciples and nor should we try. But if we faithfully follow the Holy Spirit and lean into His power and leading daily, we will make disciples of every nation in Columbus. Not because of our will, but because that is the very will of the God we serve.



***Lord, we confess that we are slow to carry out your will if it compromises our comfort and forces us to cast our fears on you. Give us ears to hear your Spirit, the courage to carry out your calling, and the faithfulness to make disciples of all nations. Your will be done! Amen.***

**DAY 40: November 11, 2016**

## Prayer Focus: the nations



## Prayer Region: greater campus

- Pray for the church partnership with Weinland Park Elementary School
- Pray for a church partner for Whetstone High School
- Pray that we would be faithful to our calling to make disciples of all nations.

### **Featured Contributor:**

**Andrew Jenkins** is the Area Director for Young Life - Columbus City. Andrew currently oversees ministry work at 5 Columbus City Schools (Beechcroft, Centennial, Northland, West, and Whetstone High Schools) as well as a teen mom ministry. Andrew was recently married in March of 2016 to his wife Naomi.